

you will kindly correct the mistake above shown and published in your Proceedings, and kindly insert the following, viz. :

“ ‘The Curators reported the safe return of the four-holed Mexican flutes or flageolets of terra-cotta, and the “pitch-pipes” or whistles of like material, which were borrowed and studied by Hillborn T. Cresson, who found that the first-mentioned four-holed clay flageolets could be made to produce the entire *chromatic* scale by proper manipulation and finger-stopping. The Mexican whistles or pitch pipes gave in regular succession, from tonic to octave, a full diatonic scale ; also, a ninth, eleventh and twelfth existed, “*the tenth being absent,*” giving in all an *octave* and a *quarter*.’ ”

“I regret to say that this is somewhat long, yet the facts deduced by the investigation of these instruments, owned by your honorable Society, prompt me to ask you to record them, merely claiming that they are interesting facts, *and, if I am correct, first noticed by myself.* Please state to your Society that, for the past eight months, I have devoted my spare time to the arrangement and classification of the Mexican antiquities contained in the Poinsett and Keating Collection, and that I hope in a few weeks to have these unique specimens of art so arranged that they can be properly labeled and catalogued.”

Pending nominations, Nos. 985 to 1006, were read.  
And the meeting was adjourned.

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*Stated Meeting, Nov. 2, 1883.*

Present, 9 members.

President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

After reading the minutes it was resolved that the Secretaries be instructed to cancel the concluding part of the rough minutes of the last meeting.

Letters of acknowledgment were received from the Royal Society at London (102, 110 and 111 to complete set), and the Statistical Society, October 15 (112).

A letter of envoy was received from the United States Naval Observatory.

Donations for the Library were received from the Geological and Trigonometrical Survey of India, the Danish Society of



Antiquaries, the Congress of Americanists; the Societies at Königsburg, Giessen and Geneva; the Geographical Societies at Vienna, Paris, Bordeaux and London, the Royal Academies at Berlin and Dublin; Zoological Societies in Paris and London; Professor Paul Albrecht, of Brussels; *Revue Politique* and *Revista Euskara*; the Royal, R. Asiatic and Linnaean Societies in London, Greenwich Observatory, Cornwall Polytechnic Society; Boston Natural History Society; American Academy of Sciences; American Journal of Science; New York Observatory, United States Observatory; Franklin Institute; Mr. Henry Phillips, Jr., and the Mexican Museum.

The death of Oswald Heer, of Zurich, at Lausanne, September 27, aged 74, was announced by the Secretary; the reading of a letter from Mr. Leo. Lesquereux, of Columbus, was postponed to the next meeting. (See page 286.)

The death of Joachim Barrande, at Prag, aged 83, was reported by the Secretary.

Mr. Chas. A. Ashburner gave a brief description of Dr. Kintses's fire-damp indicator which he had recently examined in conjunction with a Committee of the Franklin Institute.

Although he did not feel at liberty to state the conclusions to which the Committee had arrived in regard to this special apparatus, he expressed grave doubts as to the practicability of any such appliance to prevent mine explosions from fire-damp, and the consequent loss of life. Fire-damp is not the most deadly foe of the coal miner as is popularly supposed. It is an acknowledged fact that anthracite contains the greater quantity of fire-damp; and greater risks from gas explosions are experienced in anthracite mines.

He stated that in the decade from 1860 to 1870 less than 11 per cent of the fatal accidents in the Pennsylvania anthracite mines resulted from fire-damp explosions; while during the year 1882 only  $8\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the fatal mine accidents were to be attributed to this cause. In most cases the fire-damp, whose presence was already known, and therefore no automatic indicator was necessary to locate it, was fired either through the carelessness or recklessness of a miner, from a neglect to comply with the superintendent's orders, or from criminal disobedience to the mine laws.

In his judgment, in no case during the year 1882 would an automatic indicator have prevented an explosion. The greatest foes of the coal miner are his negligence, his disobedience and his recklessness.



The experience of the English miner with automatic fire-damp indicators, particularly Ansell's, which the speaker thought a more sensitive fire-damp detector than Dr. Kintses's, goes to prove that the use of such instruments is not practical. The mine laws if rigidly enforced would diminish the risk of fire-damp explosions and the resulting loss of life more than any other means. The experience of Mr. Ashburner in fiery mines was adduced in support of his views.

The reading of pending nominations Nos. 985 to 1006 was postponed.

The Report of the Curators on Bishop de Schweinitz's letter was read and accepted, and the resolution recommended therein was agreed to. (See below.)

Mr. Fraley reported that he had received and paid over to the Treasurer the interest on the Michaux Legacy due October 1st, amounting to \$132.43.

Mr. Lesley was authorized to insert in the minutes the following correction of the note in his communication on the Progress of the Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, in Chester county, read January 19, 1883 (Proceedings No. 113, page 539, lines 17, 18), which he desired to have read as follows:

"The delay in the publication was caused by an unforeseen and unavoidable delay in the receipt of Dr. Frazer's notes which form the latter part of the volume."

A Committee of five, consisting of Dr. Brinton, Mr. Price, Dr. Horn, Mr. Phillips and Dr. Frazer was appointed to report what improvement, if any, can be made in the mode of balloting for members, and the meeting was adjourned.

*Letter of Bishop de Schweinitz.*

*To the President and Directors of the American Philosophical Society:*

GENTLEMEN: In accordance with a resolution adopted by the Directors of the "Society for Propagating the Gospel among the Heathen," I herewith respectfully request you to return, at your earliest convenience, the seven Manuscripts by Zeisberger and Pylæus on Indian languages, which Manuscripts are the property of said Society, and which were deposited in your Library subject to a call from our Board. Their titles and the fact that they were deposited by our Society, are set forth in Vol. I of your Transactions, 1819. I inclose a list of these Manuscripts.

The reason why we now claim them is, that the Church has made com-



plete arrangements for preserving all its documents and papers here at Bethlehem; that its library and collection of manuscripts are properly ordered and displayed in its "Archives;" that a most valuable library of Moravian literature has recently been presented to us; and that we wish to bring together all the papers which we own, especially with regard to the Indians, and arrange them in our collection. At the time that the Manuscripts for which we ask were deposited with the American Philosophical Society, none of the conveniences existed which we now have for preserving such documents.

I remain, gentlemen,

Yours, very respectfully,

EDMUND DE SCHWEINITZ,

*President of the S. P. G.*

BETHLEHEM, PA., October 9th, 1883.

*Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Vol. I, 1819. By its Historical and Literary Committee.*

- p. xlvii. "*Deposited by the Society of the United Brethren of Bethlehem:*"
1. Deutsch und Onondagoisches Woerterbuch, von David Zeisberger. 7 vols. 4to.
  - p. xlviii. 2. Essay of an Onondago Grammar, or a short introduction to learn the Onondago, alias Maqua Tongue; by David Zeisberger. 4to, 67 pp.
  3. Onondagoische Grammatica; by the same. 4to, 87 pp.
  4. Another Onondago Grammar in the German language; by the same. 4to, 176 pp.
  5. Affixa Nominum et Verborum Linguae Macquaicae. Auctore Chr. Pyrlæo. 4to, 25 pp. [With this work are bound several Iroquois Vocabularies and Collection of Phrases, the whole together making 178 pp. 4to.]
  6. Adjectiva, Nomina et Pronomina Linguae Macquaicae, cum nonnullis de Verbis, Adverbis ac Præpositionibus ejusdem linguae. Pyrlæus. 4to, 86 pp.
  7. A Collection of Words and Phrases in the Iroquois or Onondago Language, explained into German. By the Rev. Chr. Pyrlæus. 4to. 140 pp.

*Report of the Curators on the subject of the Zeisberger and Pyrlæus MSS. November 2, 1883.*

It appears to the Curators that these MSS. were deposited by "The United Brethren of Bethlehem," and therefore cannot be given up except to them or by their order. The present demand comes from the "Society for Propagating the Gospel among the Heathen." We have, therefore, no right to surrender these MSS. to an alien Society.



If the "Society for Propagating the Gospel, &c.," be the successor of "The United Brethren," we should be formally and legally notified to that effect, and likewise the resolution of request should be under seal. If we were to accede to this demand without a greater knowledge of the circumstances we might be liable to a demand from the real owner of these MSS. with which the Society could not comply. We, therefore, recommend that the Society adopts the following resolution :

That Bishop Schweinitz be requested to inform the Society by what right the "Society for Propagating, &c.," demand from us these MSS. deposited by "The United Brethren."

PHILLIPS,  
GEO. H. HORN, } *Curators.*

Nov. 2, 1883.

*Notes of Reference Appended.*

Deposited, 1819. Trans. Vol. I, page

1865. Dec. 1. (Proc. Vol. X, p. 187.) D. W. Fiske writes in relation to the Zeisberger MSS.

Dec. 15. (Proc. Vol. X, p. 193.) Letters read in reference thereto. Contents not given.

Literary Committee made a recommendation which was referred to the Secretaries to report on.

1866. Feb. 16. Vol. X, p. 205. The Secretaries reported they had found these MSS. noted as deposited, &c. The United Brethren were requested to allow the American Philosophical Society to publish them.

March 2. (Vol. X, p. 207.) Mr. Fraley states that the United Brethren desired themselves to publish these MSS.

March 16. A letter from Bethlehem *in ea re* read.

The matter ended there, and nothing further appears on the minutes to this day.

PHILLIPS,  
GEO. H. HORN, } *Curators.*

Nov. 2, 1883.

*Letter of Leo Lesquereux.*

Oswald Heer, the celebrated Professor of Zurich, was born at Glaris in 1809. His father was a doctor. He first studied theology, and was ordained as minister, but afterwards studied medicine, and became interested in the science of Natural History. He has lived at Zurich since 1832. In 1837 he was Professor either at the University or at the Polytechnic School, and Director of the Botanical Garden. He was for a few years a member of the Council of Zurich, but resigned his seat to be able to attend entirely to his studies. In 1869 Zurich received the celebrated scientist as an honorary citizen (member of the city Bourgeoisie).

The letter of communication of the family, 29th September, says only